



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/990,830	11/09/2001	John Zimmerman	701483 (PHIL06-01483)	3045
24737	7590	04/06/2006	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS P.O. BOX 3001 BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			HOSSAIN, FARZANA E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2623	

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/990,830

Applicant(s)

ZIMMERMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Farzana E. Hossain

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 April 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. This action is in response to communications filed 03-06-06. Claims 1-42 are original.

### ***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments filed 02-01-06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to arguments for claims 1, 14, 27, 40, the applicant argues that sensing a content change within a broadcast stream as a function of detectable content attribute and detecting the special event ....as a function of content change does not include triggers. The Applicant's disclosure discloses the ability to sense changes as a function of detected attributes such as motion data, sound effects, speech to text translation data, embedded-text data or select data from the Internet (Page 22, lines 1-13). The Applicant does not teach away from triggers nor does the Applicant indicate in the claims that the sensing of content change cannot be conducted via an alert provided as a part of the television (TV) signal and includes many ways to sense changes.

Schaefer discloses that the information alert can be provided as part of a TV signal *such as* a trigger (Page 5, paragraph 0044). Schaeffer also discloses the trigger itself could be an information alert or the trigger could be inserted into the VBI and can include links to content (Page 7, paragraph 0068). Schaeffer therefore still reads on the claims as sensing a content change as a function of detectable content attributes, which can be insertions of data in the VBI of a television signal (Page 5, paragraph 0044, Page 7, paragraph 0068).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-4, 8-17, 21-30, 34-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schaefer et al (US 2002/0124252 and hereafter referred to as "Schaefer").

Regarding Claims 1, 14, 27, and 40, Schaefer discloses an appliance comprising a receiver capable of receiving broadcast content streams (Figures 1-3, 152); and a monitoring system or set top box (STB) capable of identifying special event content within the received broadcast content streams (Page 5, paragraph 0045), each of the received broadcast streams having detectable content attributes or triggers (Page 5, paragraphs 0044-0045), the monitoring system operable to sense a content change within at least of the received streams as a function detectable content attributes (Page 5, paragraphs 0044-0045), detect the special event content broadcast within the least of on the received steams as a function sensed content change (Page 5, paragraphs 0044-0046) and selectively generate a notification signal a function of detected special event and a subscriber profile (Page 5, paragraphs 0043-0047).

Regarding Claim 2, 15, and 28, Schaefer discloses all the limitations of Claims 1, 14, and 27 respectively. Schaefer discloses that the subscriber profile is stored in memory (Page 7, paragraph 0062, Page 4, paragraph 0038) and comprises at least one record that maintains at least one measurable characteristic of an associated subscriber or specific program, time of day, type of information alerts (Figure 5, Page 5, paragraphs 0046-0047).

Regarding Claim 3, 16, and 29, Schaefer discloses all the limitations of Claims 2, 15, and 28 respectively. Schaefer discloses the stored subscriber profile is always compared with the alert in order to display a notification signal (Figure 7, 706). It is necessarily included that a user profile is initially set as a default profile in order to compare alerts to user profile in order to determine if the notification symbol should be generated.

Regarding Claim 4, 17, and 30, Schaefer discloses all the limitations of Claims 2, 15, and 28 respectively. Schaefer discloses that the monitoring system is further operable to update the stored subscriber profile (Page 5, paragraph 0047-0049).

Regarding Claim 8 and 21, Schaefer discloses all the limitations of Claims 1 and 14 respectively. Schaefer discloses that the monitoring system comprises to comprising a content monitoring controller or processor (Page 5, paragraph 0045) that is operable to receive the plurality of broadcast stream from at least on receiver (Figures 1-3, 152), monitor the plurality of received streams (Page 5, paragraphs 0044-0046), sense changes in the plurality of received broadcast content streams as a function of detectable content attributes (Page 5, paragraph 0044-0049).

Regarding Claim 9 and 22, Schaefer discloses all the limitations of Claims 1 and 14 respectively. Schaefer disclose that the identifying special content within a plurality of broadcast content streams comprising a special event detecting controller or processor (Page 5, paragraph 0045) that identifies special event content as a function of the sensed content change (Page 5, paragraphs 0044-0046), the content detecting controller operable to direct at least one of a plurality communication units including STB, cellular telephone, pager (Page 5, paragraphs 0044, 0050) to communicate a message to an associated subscriber (Figure 6).

Regarding Claim 10, 23, and 34, Schaefer discloses all the limitations of Claims 9, 21, and 27 respectively. Schaefer discloses that the monitoring system is further operable to identify the scheduled broadcast content or regular programming and unscheduled broadcast content or emergency alert that preempts scheduled broadcast content by displaying the emergency warning (Page 5, paragraph 0046).

Regarding Claim 11, 24, and 37, Schaefer discloses all the limitations of Claims 1, 14, and 27 respectively. Schaeffer discloses that a trigger with information alert can appear (Page 7, paragraphs 0067-0070). Schaefer discloses that the monitoring system is further operable to monitor video content (Page 6, paragraphs 0068-0069) within the plurality of broadcast streams.

Regarding Claim 12, 25, and 38, Schaefer discloses all the limitations of Claims 11, 24, and 37 respectively. Schaeffer discloses that the monitoring system detects the special event content broadcast within the at least one of broadcast content stream as a

function of video content (Page 7, paragraph 0068-0069) within the plurality of broadcast streams.

Regarding Claim 13, 26, and 39, Schaefer discloses all the limitations of Claims 11, 24, and 37 respectively. Schaeffer discloses that content attributes filter the triggers in the VBI or text of the video/television signal to transmit information alerts to the viewer (Page 7, paragraphs 0068-0070), which reads on monitoring the transcript of the video content and the monitoring system detects the special event broadcast within the broadcast streams as a function of the transcript.

Regarding Claim 35, Schaefer discloses all the limitations of Claim 27. Schaefer disclose that the subscriber profile is actively associated (Page 5, paragraphs 0046-0048).

Regarding Claim 36, Schaefer discloses all the limitations of Claim 27. Schaefer disclose that the subscriber profile is passively associated (Page 5, paragraph 0049).

Regarding Claim 41, Schaefer discloses all the limitations of Claim 40. Schaefer discloses that the selectively generated notification signal directs operation of an appliance (Figure 6).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 5-7, 18-20, 31-33, 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schaefer in view of Yen et al (US 6,668,278 and hereafter referred to as "Yen").

Regarding Claim 5, 18, and 31, Schaefer discloses all the limitations of Claims 2, 15, and 28 respectively. Schaeffer is silent on the mathematical representation. Yen discloses that the subscriber profile provides a mathematical representation of a notification preference of an associated subscriber (Column 9, lines 53-67, Column 10, lines 16-21, Column 11, lines 58-67, Column 12, lines 1-15). Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Schaefer to include that the subscriber profile provides a mathematical representation of a notification preference of an associated subscriber (Column 9, lines 53-67, Column 10, lines 16-21, Column 11, lines 58-67, Column 12, lines 1-15) as taught by Yen in order to present information to a recipient from filtering information based on the behavior of the recipient (Column 1, lines 63-67, Column 2, lines 1-4, lines 42-52) as disclosed by Yen.

Regarding Claim 6, 19, and 32, Schaefer discloses all the limitations of Claims 5, 18, and 31 respectively. Schaefer is silent on the mathematical representation. Yen discloses that the subscriber profile is generated by the monitoring the system at definition and includes a default notification preference that is modifiable by the associated subscriber or a value can be assigned in response to an absence of detectable content or tag, which is in this case is a default value that the recipient can change (Column 9, lines 53-67, Column 10, lines 16-21).



Regarding Claim 7, 20, and 33, Schaefer discloses all the limitations of Claims 5, 18, and 33 respectively. Schaeffer is silent on the mathematical representation. Yen discloses that the as a function of the mathematical representation, the notification signal selectively directing the plurality of the set top box to communicate a message to the associated subscriber (Column 11, lines 12-19).

Regarding Claim 42, Schaefer discloses all the limitations of Claim 41. Schaefer is silent on the active and standby mode. Yen discloses that the appliance is capable of operation in an active mode and a standby mode and when the appliance is operating in the standby mode, the signal directs the associated appliance to switch from the standby mode to the active mode (Column 13, lines 38-58). Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Schaefer to include the operation in an active mode and a standby mode and when the appliance is operating in the standby mode, the signal directs the associated appliance to switch from the standby mode to the active mode (Column 13, lines 38-58) as taught by Yen in order to present information to a recipient from filtering information based on the behavior of the recipient regardless of activity of the machine (Column 2, lines 61-67, Column 3, lines 1-7) as disclosed by Yen.

### ***Conclusion***

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Farzana E. Hossain whose telephone number is 571-272-5943. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Grant can be reached on 571-272-7294. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

FEH  
March 17, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vivek Srivastava', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**VIVEK SRIVASTAVA**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**